

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 12 JUNE 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <http://www.sarl.org.za> while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

While the problems experienced by some members accessing the SARL web pages are being attended to, an additional channel is now available. To download the weekly SARL News audio recordings and to listen to, or download Amateur Radio Today, log on to www.amateurradio.org.za.

In the news today:

TWO YOUTH CONTESTS IN THIS WEEK

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL CLUB TICK?

and

CLUB AND CONTEST NEWS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

TWO YOUTH CONTESTS IN THIS WEEK

The Hammies QSO Party is on the air this afternoon between 14:00 to 15:00 UTC with activity on 40 metres. The aim of the QSO Party is to promote contacts between Hammies/Young radio amateurs and older radio amateurs in

Southern African countries with an emphasis on ZU stations. Submit your log by 21:59 UTC on Friday 17 June 2022 by e-mail to zr6dx@iafrica.com. The contest rules can be found on page 30 of the 2022 Blue Book.

On 16 June, Youth Day you can take part in the SARL Youth QSO Party. This is a fun activity to celebrate the Youth and to promote contacts between young radio amateurs in Southern African countries. Call “CQ Youth Sprint!” This QSO Party runs from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC on Thursday 16 June 2022 with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. Submit your log by 21:59 UTC on Tuesday 21 June 2022 by e-mail to zs3vdk@webmail.co.za. Get all the information on page 31 of the 2022 Blue Book.

MEMBERSHIP INVOICES

The membership invoices for 2022/2023 have been sent out, but the Office at the NARC has six invoices that cannot be sent out as there is no e-mail address registered on the database and to use the Post office is a waste of time. The Office at the NARC is looking for the e-mail addresses of the Welkom Radio Club, ZS4WRC, and the Mooirivier Amateur Radio Club, ZS6MOI. Then also the e-mail addresses of Johan, ZS5JL; Selwyn, ZS5SL; Alois, ZS6FXM and Pieter, ZS6ZXB.

Please contact Kelley at the NARC at e-mail admin@sarl.org.za and provide her with your e-mail address. Radio Clubs are encouraged to create a free Gmail account in the name of the Club so that as committees change, they simply give the Gmail address login credentials to the new Secretary/Treasurer.

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL CLUB TICK?

Geoff Emery, VK4ZPP has been thinking. When was the last time you and your club members sat down and got your heads together? I mean, when did you last seriously talk over what makes a successful club tick and what keeps us coming back?

“I was sparked into this train of thought by the excitement shown by people on TV over the football match that was held midweek. Now if it is anything around the world that gets the blood pumping and the chest heaving with excitement, it is the collective excitement of football supporters. Culture, religion, and language all give way to the obsessive joy of the sharing that being a supporter of a particular club provides. The code does not matter but the rallying about a team and the current match seems to excite fans like few other things”.

“There seems to be a harmony in wearing the team colours and jerseys and scarves are prized for what they represent to their owners and other supporters. From hat pins to balloons and other trinkets, people seek a way of identifying with the club, something that is much more than themselves. Over the years, I have gathered a few items that exhibit my membership of amateur radio groups. There are a couple of baseball caps with the WIA badging, there is the pin to put in my jacket lapel and there is the long-sleeved shirt from when I was deeply involved in radio club activities. I even have an applique badge to go on some yet-to-be chosen piece of clothing”.

As I have managed to get around a few amateur radio events, I have seen the range of shirts, caps, and souvenir items that clubs have produced for their members. And the members have been proud to wear them. Unless you count the throngs of prospective buyers around the sale tables at rallies, I have yet to see any of the enthusiasm of the sports followers at a match. Are we as a tribe more sedate than other self-identified followers of recreational pursuits, I wonder?

So, let us turn back to chewing the fat on keeping the club engaged with its members. What are the things that work? Is it the newsletter, the club nets, or participation in contests and rallies? Do the T-shirts look a bit last century, but people wear them anyway? Would a decal for the members' cars be popular and is tea and biscuits enough to warm people's hearts at meetings? Would going for lunch once a month get some people together or would bringing a plate of food to eat during the wind down from the meetings get more people talking?

Maybe for the more active people, having a game of touch or a visit to a swimming spot in warmer weather would be a way of building the sense of togetherness that a club would like to see. There are so many things that we can do to support our friends and it is just a matter of finding those things that work in your town.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

CLUB NEWS

Just in case you have forgotten, the Sandton ARC reminds you of the Gluhwein and Coffee mid-Winter social and quicky Fox Hunt is taking place this coming

Wednesday evening 15 June. Please join us in the parking area of the Bryanston Pine Forest, 18 Ebury Ave, Bryanston at 18:00 CAT. Dress warmly, and bring a torch, your favorite hot beverage and your Hand-held radio. The adventure is open to all; we would love to have you join us. Full details are available on the SARL upcoming events diary.

The Sandton ARC will hold an antenna building and tune-up day on Saturday 25 June at the National Amateur Radio Centre in Honeydew, Johannesburg. If you are interested in joining us to build a VHF/UHF dual band J-pole or a 40 m double Bazooka, or want to bring your antenna for a tune-up, please visit the SARL upcoming events diary for further details.

Other Clubs are invited to submit details about their meetings and activities. There may be visitors in your Club area.

CONTEST NEWS

The third leg of the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest takes place from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 18 June with CW, RTTY, and phone activity. The exchange is an RS, RSQ or RST report, the name of your Club and your 4 character grid square (e.g., KG30). Each phone QSO is 2 points, each CW and RTTY QSO is worth 3 points, then you get 2 points for each new grid square worked and 1 point for each new Club worked. Submit your log by 21:59 UTC on Thursday 23 June to contest@sarl.org.za. Turn to page 60 of the 2022 Blue Book for the rules.

On Saturday 2 July, the Newbie QSO Party will be run. This contest is for the new radio amateurs who wrote the May RAE. Turn to page 35 of the 2022 Blue Book for the rules and get your station ready for this contest.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently 3 sunspots with simple to moderate magnetic complexity visible. There is a moderate possibility for C- and low probability for M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 52. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – The Hammies QSO Party and the SARL Top Band QSO Party
 15 June – The Sandton mid-winter Fox Hunt
 16 June – Youth Day and the SARL Youth QSO Party
 17 June – World QRP Day, a school holiday and the closing date for Hammies and Top Band log sheets
 18 June – The SARL Saturday 40 m Club contest and the ARRL Kids Day
 19 June – Father’s Day
 21 June – The Winter Solstice at 11:13 CAT and the closing date for Youth logs
 23 June – The closing date for Club contest logs
 24 June – The provincial schools close for the winter holiday
 24 to 26 June – The Ham Radio exhibition in Friedrichshafen, Germany
 25 June – The Sandton ARC Antenna Day at the NARC
 25 and 26 June – The ARRL Field Day
 30 June – The Sandton ARC Talking Tech Power Hour at 19:00 CAT on 145,700/Echolink

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The Hammies QSO Party is on the air this afternoon between 14:00 to 15:00 UTC with activity on 40 metres. On 16 June, Youth Day you can take part in the SARL Youth QSO Party.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday afternoon preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by

courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZR6BP, proof read by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.